

Remarks by U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick
at a Memorial Service in Trinidad on September 11

- Good morning Minister Valley, other ministers, President of the Senate, other members of the Parliament, Brother Noble Kkan, other members of the clergy, members of the defense forces, this extraordinary choir, Ambassador Austin, fellow citizens of the United States, and particularly the families who lost loved ones.
- Thank you for inviting me to be here with you today, for it gives me an opportunity to thank you for the sympathy and support you have shown my country at a time of tragedy and hurt and shock.
- As important as have been the messages from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and its assistance, I have been struck even more by the genuine warmth and decency and empathy of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.
- We are proud to call you our friends.
- As people here – and all over the world – have recognized, the terrorists of September 11 perpetrated much more than an attack on America. They killed people from over 90 countries.
- Indeed, the innocents included 14 people from Trinidad - an architect, a New York government official, people who worked for financial services firms on the top floors of the buildings, a janitor, and a man who worked in the Windows on the World restaurant at the top of the building.
- What was the purpose of the attack on those people, or those in the Pentagon, or the passengers in the planes?
- These murderers had no cause, no dignity. The killers hate the modern world; they despise tolerance; they keep women in bondage; they cannot appreciate or understand opportunity, hope, and liberty.
- They fear ideas, which they consider to be a temptation, the Satan of free men and women.
- Ambassador Austin has talked about the worldwide coalition of nations working to hunt down these terrorists. And that is precisely what we must do.

- Not for vengeance, but for justice. And to stop those craven killers from snuffing out the light of life for others who are seeking to better themselves, raise families, and take care of their fellow men and women.
- Sadly, as President Bush has explained, ours is not a struggle of a week, or a month, or even of a year. It is a trial that will persist. This war is not just about a conflict with the Taliban in Afghanistan, because this terrorism, unfortunately, has metastasized in too many countries.
- Therefore, it is all the more important that all citizens of civilized countries of this world band together to deal with this threat. As long as these terrorists survive, we must show them that true strength is rooted in a very different set of values, beliefs, and communities.
- Because one message of September 11 of last year was that we are all interconnected, that we stand together, we prosper together, we grow together, we triumph together. And today we remember together.
- Our values are promoted through openness, not closed cells of plotters; our goal is to create, not to destroy; our celebration is of life and the pursuit of happiness, not of killing, death, and the pursuit of hatred.
- Our challenge runs deep; I do not believe that terrorism finds its roots in poverty, that's an insult to many poor people in the world; its roots lie in a much deeper evil. Indeed, most of the terrorists were from well-off families. But, there is no doubt that societies that fragment, that are poor, that have no sense of hope, can become fertile fields for terrorism. So, all of us have an interest in development, in democracy, in openness, in hope, in opportunity.
- And that is one reason that I am here, to meet my Caribbean colleagues, to talk about trade and development and openness.
- Therefore, I can think of no better place and no better purpose to spend this day than to be with you and your Caribbean neighbors.
- In the years to come, all of us will continue to look back to September 11. It will be a day that people will remember – they will remember where they were and what they were doing.
- I remember being in my office right across from the White House because the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania was probably targeted for the White House and my office. So I am probably here today with you because of the heroic actions of some people on a plane that crashed in Pennsylvania.

- I wonder most of all, what children will remember.
- I think September 11, 2001, will be a defining moment for them, like the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Cuban missile crisis or the Apollo mission to the moon was for other generations. Part of what they will remember is not just the event and where they were, but what September 11 meant to their society and how people responded.
- In all countries, children are our future.
- That's why I was particularly moved when, in the months after September 11, a group of firefighters and policemen from New York City went to Afghanistan to bring candy and help to children in Afghanistan, to send a message of hope and brotherhood and love.
- This expression of kindness symbolizes the hope that can arise from tragedy and even from hatred.
- No matter what the cruel soil; humankind has the potential to plant seeds of hope for a better future. In a small way, this message of hope is part of what my visit is about – as we work together to forge greater trade ties we will be strengthening a bond that will pull us closer together, and create opportunities for the peoples of Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean, and America.
- As I look around me at this museum, I recall that your soil – and that of my country – has seen other evils: slavery, indentured servitude, colonial empires, extermination of native peoples. But that soil has also nourished a people who have developed democracy, cherished liberty, and offered opportunity to common men and women who have uncommon dreams.
- That is why we stand together now.
- That is why we will prevail.
- That is why I hope we will leave a world that is a better place for those children of September 11.
- Thank you and God bless you.